

System Analysts:

The Link Between Business and Information Technology



I want to streamline a production process within my company. Sounds simple, right? I want to make a few changes here and there and it's done. While making minor changes may sound simple, many questions may arise, that if not analyzed and answered carefully may cost a lot of money and make an inefficient process even worse. I need new computer equipment and I need to plan for the cost and implementation of the new system. How long will production be held up, and how will this affect my employees? Will I be facing layoffs or will I be paying overtime? System analysts make the communication between information technology and business departments possible. They bridge the gap between what a business wants to do and how it can be done, taking into consideration all the consequences of doing so.

System analysts learn the relationships and interactions of your business system and the elements that compose it. They develop and test strategies for managing the system and improving its outcome. System analysts understand the architecture behind different software

solutions and ways that they can be customized to benefit your business. For example, they can recommend the most suitable web application for your business or organization and develop ways to incorporate the power of multiple web applications in order to solve business problems. They can identify the most efficient software in terms of speed, usability, cost of implementation, and maintenance. Utilizing your system analyst to recommend suitable hardware and recommend server architecture will enhance your company's bottom line.

Melding the potentially disparate goals of the business owner, a supervisor, an accountant, a computer programmer and production worker into a productive and profitable system is the task of the system analyst. Most analysts have computer science or information science degrees. They must understand math, computers, planning, and have exceptional communication and critical thinking skills. Writing skills are essential when gathering information from a variety of sources and different levels of management. The ability to explain their systems and give clear instructions and

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recommendations is key to the success of the analyst. Since system analysts work in a variety of fields, a degree that corresponds with the field is often required. For instance, many MBAs also have a concentration in information systems, bank system analysts may have a degree in finance, and an analyst employed by a hospital may have training or experience in health care. Since technology is changing rapidly, ongoing training is a must.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of computer system analysts is expected to grow by 20 percent from 2008 to 2018, which is a much faster rate than the average occupation. Demand for these workers will increase as organizations continue to adopt and integrate increasingly sophisticated technologies and as the need for information security grows. The annual median wage for this occupation in the United States is about \$78,000 for those with a bachelor's degree. ⓘ

2008-2018 Employment Projections for Computer Systems Analysts

Area Name	Current Employment	Projected Employment	Annual % Change	Total Annual Openings	Star Rating
Utah - Statewide	2,871	3,598	2.5	140	4
Metro Utah	2,710	3,390	2.5	130	5
Nonmetro Utah	80	100	2	0	3
United States	532,180	640,270	2	22,280	

Resources:

Utah Economic Data Viewer

- <http://jobs.utah.gov/jsp/wi/utalmis/default.do>
- www.bls.gov